

Being a

WITNESS

to a Muslim

Understanding MUSLIMS

Approximately 1500 years ago in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, a man named Muhammad claimed visitation by an angel named Gabriel, who gave him messages and continued to reveal things to him over a 23-year period. Muhammad used these teachings to form the basis of Islam (meaning “submission”).

However, Muslims also believe that Islam was the original religion from the time of creation, and that Adam was the first prophet of Allah. Other biblical characters such as Noah, Moses, David, Solomon, John the Baptist, and Jesus were also prophets of Allah. Muhammad is considered the last and greatest prophet, and is known as the “seal of the prophets”.

After Muhammad’s death, his followers disagreed on who should be his successor, and they divided into two main groups: Sunnis and the Shi’ites. About 85 percent of the world’s Muslims are Sunnis and about 15 percent are Shi’ites.

Understanding THEIR BELIEFS

CONCEPT OF GOD

Muslims believe in some of the same attributes of God (holiness, justice) that Christians do. However, Allah is a capricious (untrustworthy) god and not a god of love since he neither has to allow people to enter into or stay in heaven. He is also unknowable, impersonal, unlimited by his own nature (he could lie), unemotional, historically passive, and is not gracious.

TRINITY

Some Muslims regard the Holy Spirit as the angel Gabriel and the Trinity as the Father, Mother and Son. Because they believe that God (Allah) is one, they do not accept the Triune God.

SOURCE OF WRITTEN REVELATION

The Koran. It is a “disjointed and irregular” collection of Sura’s (chapters), according to The Concise

Encyclopedia of Islam. They are not arranged in chronological or any other kind of order.

JESUS CHRIST

They believe He was born of a virgin and became “Prophet Isa”, but He is not the Son of God. They believe His title “Christ” is a name. Most deny His literal death on the cross and think that Judas may have died in His place.

SIN

They believe that all people are born into a naturally pure and sin-free state. No person inherits original sin, nor is anyone held accountable for the sins of others.

SALVATION

Muslims who faithfully practice the “Five Pillars Of Islam” have a chance at Heaven, but it is not mandatory that Allah grant it. The pillars are: the

confession of faith (Shahada), prayer (Salat), alms (Zakat), fast of Ramadan (Saum), and pilgrimage (Hajj). A sixth pillar is holy war (Jihad). Anyone who dies in Jihad is assured of Paradise.

AFTERLIFE

Muslims believe in Paradise and Hellfire.

Referencing THE KORAN

SURA OF WOMEN 4:136

“Believers, have faith in God and His apostle, in the Book he has revealed to His apostle, and in the Scriptures he formerly revealed.” An admonition in the Koran to trust the Bible!

SURA OF IMRAN’S FAMILY 3:15

“He (God) said, “Jesus I am about to cause you to die and lift you up to Me.” Contrary to their teaching on the death of Judas in Christ’s place!

Referencing

BIBLICAL PASSAGES

MATTHEW 11:28-30

God alone is responsible for rescuing lost sheep (not mankind's efforts).

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Emphasize that it's in the "name" (singular) of each of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

MARK 12:29-30

Emphasize that the NT teaches the unity of God.

LUKE 3:21-22

This speaks of the participation of all three personalities of the Godhead.

LUKE 15:3-7

Only God can provide rest for our souls.

JOHN 1:1-3

This shows both the Deity of Christ and His distinct personality at the same time.

JOHN 8:56-59

Jesus Christ is Eternal.

JOHN 10:30-33

The Father and the Son are One.

JOHN 14:6-11

To know Jesus is to know the Father.

JOHN 20:24-29

Jesus accepts worship as God.

ROMANS 5:6-8

This shows the need for the atonement; punishment for sin.

1 JOHN 2:2

Jesus satisfies the wrath of God.

Being a WITNESS

After asking your Muslim friend, “Are you going to Heaven (Paradise) when you die?”, you can give them a “LIFT” by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ as follows:

LAW OF MOSES?

After talking about Paradise, you can then ask: “Are you familiar with the Law of Moses (Ten Commandments)?” Take some time to work your way through some of the Commandments. After allowing the Law to do its work of making the sinner’s sin exceedingly sinful, follow up by asking: “Would a holy, righteous, just God find you innocent or guilty on Judgment Day?” Allow them to respond and continue accentuating the truth of their sinfulness in light of God’s holiness, as necessary.

ISA?

After they admit their guilt, ask: “Have you heard the good news that Prophet Isa came to pay the price for your sins? He gave of Himself so that you could go to Heaven (Paradise) when you die.” They may respond by saying something like: “Prophet Isa (Jesus) was not God. Only Allah, The Merciful, can take me to Paradise.” If so, proceed to the next point (“F”). If not, skip the next point and go directly to the last point (“T”).

FORM?

If your Muslim friend denies the deity of Prophet Isa, ask: “Do you believe that a man can take the form of God?” “No.” “But can the all-powerful and mighty God (Lord of the universe, Maker of Heaven and earth and everything in it) take the form of a man?” Note: If the response is

“yes” (Allah, the all-powerful, can do anything), then a major concession has been gained. If the response is “No”, then gently remind the person that he/she is admitting that God is less than “all-powerful” (a discovery of something that God cannot do).

TESTAMENT & TESTIMONY

Next, share this truth: “According to first-hand testimony, listen to what Prophet Isa had to say about Himself.” Quote John 14:6 (you may also quote John 10:30; John 8:58). You may be asked: “What is your source?” Answer: “The Injil of Isa – from the four Gospels found at the beginning of the New Testament of the Holy Bible.”

Note: Be ready to give a New Testament. It is a custom in the Middle East to not only accept

a gift when it is offered, but to use it out of respect for the giver. Finally, you can share your testimony of God’s work in your life and the reality Him speaking to you by His Spirit (Muslims don’t believe that God has spoken to anyone in any way since Muhammad).

Additional RESOURCES

PRINT

The School of Biblical Evangelism by
Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort

(Available at the Harvest London Resource
Centre and online at livingwaterscanada.com)

WEB

www.carm.org/islam

For more information on evangelism training
with The Cross Current, visit:

www.thecrosscurrent.com

About THE CROSS CURRENT

The Cross Current is a local missions ministry and outreach broadcast bringing glory to God's Name by unifying His Church in His Gospel and helping pastors equip all Christians under their care to be Christ's witnesses everyday, everywhere, to everyone, as one body serving in accordance with the various gifts He has given each.



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